

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A method for providing data transport services, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a publicly-owned, high-capacity communications network;
 - b. allowing connection of the communications network to service providers and paying customers; and
 - c. charging tolls for use of the communications network by the service providers and customers, without regard to the type or content of the data transmitted.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network comprises high-capacity fiber optic communication lines and end-user connections.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of interconnecting the high-capacity communications network to other communications networks.
4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the service providers are selected from the group consisting of cable television companies, telecommunications companies, and internet service providers.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing a publicly-owned, high-capacity communications network comprises constructing a fiber optic network within a geographic region controlled by a governmental entity.
6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the governmental entity is selected from the group consisting of a city, a county, a special district, a state, and a nation.

7. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the fiber optic network is constructed using public funds.
8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fees collected from users of the network and service providers are used to meet costs associated with the network.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (new) A method for providing data transport services, comprising the steps of:
 - a. constructing a high-capacity communications network as a component of publicly-owned infrastructure;

- b. allowing connection of the communications network to service providers and paying customers; and
 - c. charging tolls for use of the communications network by the service providers and customers, without regard to the type or content of the data transmitted.
20. (new) A method according to claim 19, wherein the network comprises high-capacity fiber optic communication lines and end-user connections.
21. (new) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of interconnecting the high-capacity communications network to other communications networks.
22. (new) A method according to claim 19, wherein the service providers are selected from the group consisting of cable television companies, telecommunications companies, and internet service providers.
23. (new) A method according to claim 19, wherein the step of constructing the high-capacity communications network as a component of public infrastructure comprises constructing a fiber optic network within a geographic region governed by a governmental organization selected from the group consisting of a city government, a county government, a special district, a state government, and a national government.
24. (new) A method according to claim 23, wherein the fiber optic network is constructed using public funds.
25. (new) A method according to claim 19, wherein the fees collected from users of the network and service providers are used to meet costs associated with the network.